



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection & Permanency	Effective Date:
Volume:	III	Case Management	
Chapter:	C	Case Management and Oversight	8-10-2015
Subchapter:	7	Rights and Responsibilities of Applicants and Clients	
Issuance:	200	Law Enforcement Request to Interview Minor-Clients represented by Office of the Law Guardian	

Purpose:

This issuance establishes the policy and procedures for notifying the Office of the Law Guardian (OLG) upon request from law enforcement to speak with a CP&P minor-client regarding a criminal matter.

Policy:

A) Preservation of Client Rights

CP&P shall seek to ensure that the rights of all minors in its care and/or custody are protected when law enforcement seeks the minor-client's participation in a criminal matter.

B) Notification to the Law Guardian

CP&P shall notify OLG prior to law enforcement speaking with or interviewing any minor-client including matters where:

- The minor-client is subject of the criminal investigation/activity;
- The minor-client is sought as a witness to a criminal matter; or
- The minor-client is sought as a witness in a human trafficking matter.

Procedures:

A) Law Enforcement Requesting to Interview Youth in CP&P's Custody Regarding Criminal Matters

Where a minor-client is represented by an attorney through the Office of

Law Guardian, and DCF is notified that law enforcement wishes to speak with or interview the minor-client regarding a criminal matter, the Worker notifies the Office of Law Guardian's regional office to advise either the assigned law guardian attorney or the managing attorney of the request **prior** to any communication by law enforcement with our clients. (See listing of OLG staff in each region).

The worker shall advise the attorney or manager of the name and location of the client, name and contact information for the law enforcement agent who wishes to speak with or interview the client, and any other relevant information to assist the attorney in reaching out to the client and law enforcement agent.

The Worker will follow-up the telephone call by e-mailing the law guardian attorney or manager, with a copy to the Deputy Attorney General or Section Chief in the county where the litigation is pending, to document that OLG was notified of law enforcement's request to speak with or interview the minor-client and the information provided to the law guardian attorney or manager.

B) After-Hours/Weekend Representation and SPRU

In the event the Worker receives the request to interview an minor client after normal business hours, the Worker will contact the managing attorney for the region in which the litigation is pending, and provide the manager with the name of the minor-client, the assigned law guardian's name, if known from NJ Spirit, the minor client's contact information, and the name and contact information for the law enforcement agent who wishes to speak with or interview the minor-client. (See listing of afterhours contact information for managing attorneys).

Upon notification, the managing attorney or the assigned law guardian attorney will make all reasonable efforts to speak directly with the client.

The Worker will follow-up the telephone call by e-mailing the managing attorney, with a copy to the Deputy Attorney General or Section Chief in the county where the litigation is pending, to document that OLG was notified of law enforcement's request to speak with or interview the minor-client and the information provided to the law guardian manager.

Related Information:

- [Law Guardian Contact Information and Assignments](#)